



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Cameroon

Cameroon: Authorities Arrest Alleged Rwandan Genocide Perpetrator

*AB1203125096 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French
0730 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel (Teones Bagossora), the military secretary of former Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana, who was killed in a plane crash on 6 April 1994, has been arrested. He is being held at a Gendarmerie post in Yaounde on the orders of Cameroonian judicial authorities, who will hear him and decide whether or not to extradite him.

The Rwandan Government is happy about Cameroon's gesture of arresting Col. (Bagossora), who it presents as one of those responsible for the 1994 genocide which claimed over 500,000 lives. Before taking refuge in Cameroon, Col. (Bagossora) had fled to Zaire as the Rwandan Patriotic Front advanced on Kigali, the Rwandan capital.

Sao Tome & Principe

Sao Tome & Principe: President Says No Reasons for Future Coups

*LD1103173696 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network
in Portuguese 1200 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Sao Tome and Principe is still experiencing serious economic difficulties. There are

many social problems and there is widespread unhappiness about the government's performance. Despite this, Sao Tomean President Miguel Trovoada believes a new coup d'etat is unlikely.

[Begin Trovoada recording] There are serious difficulties which the military is not ignoring. These do not depend solely on us: They are situations resulting from a structural crisis in which we have not enjoyed the best conditions for overcoming it. There are external factors which have greatly influenced the negative evolution of the economy of developing countries and particularly of a small, insular country such as Sao Tome and Principe.

The successive governments of the Second Republic have tried, within the context of the structural adjustment program, to establish the basis for an economic recovery and to promote economic growth. This has not been easy.

What happened on 15 August, I believe reflected to a certain extent the general unhappiness in Sao Tome and Principe, but I do not believe there were sufficient reasons for a coup at the time nor that they exist for a coup in the future because it is not with coups that problems get solved. [end recording]

[Announcer] That was Sao Tomean President Miguel Trovoada being interviewed this morning by Adelino Gomes on RDPI's Breakfast program.

Djibouti

Djibouti: Ex-Rebels Officially Recognized as Political Party

*LD1003160396 Paris Radio France International
in French 1230 GMT 10 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The FRUD, the Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy, has been officially legalized. So this former Afar [ethnic group] guerrilla movement will from now on wage its political war openly and peacefully. Philippe Leymarie reports:

[Leymarie] Five years after the start of the armed struggle by part of the Afar against the Djibuti regime, these former combatants have become political activists again. It is a little over a year now since secret negotiations led to a peace accord and shortly afterwards to the inclusion of the Front's president and secretary-general in the cabinet. A new stage has thus begun on this journey from arms to politics. With the legalization of the FRUD as a party in exchange for its recognition by the state, the movement which formerly aimed to overthrow institutions has now of course committed itself to respecting the constitution.

The FRUD, due to hold its first congress as a party at the end of this month, thus becomes the fourth and last legalized political party in this country in the horn of Africa. The constitution, adopted in 1992, sets a limit of four parties which can be recognized.

So Djibuti's political landscape is now complete, and all the more so as President Hassan Gouled Aptidon returned to his country early this month after a long convalescence in France. But although the head of state is back, the political classes are considering his succession, or indeed early elections, while dissidents are surfacing in groups which have traditionally backed him.

Uganda

Uganda: Correspondent Speculates on Numbers Killed by Rebels

*AB1203060096 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The rebel offensive in northern Uganda's Gulu District is developing into the worst of

its kind for several years. The Lord's Resistance Army [LRA] has been attacking civilian as well as military traffic on the main roads. The most recent incident was an attack on a convoy traveling between Karuma and (Paquach) and now, the Ugandan press is reporting an even higher death toll than the first announced. From Kampala, our correspondent, Fuseni Abi Hassan reports:

[Begin Hassan reporting] In a statement issued from State House, Kampala, President Yoweri Museveni said he learned with deep shock and sadness of the tragic loss of lives and injuries inflicted on civilians by Kony bandits on Friday [8 March] when the bandits attacked a convoy of vehicles on the Karuma-(Paquach) road. The president said the senseless and barbaric attack on innocent people is further proof of the type of suffering Kony and his group are determined to inflict on the people. President Museveni assured the nation that the NRM [National Resistance Movement] government is totally committed to eradicating banditry in the country and to do this, the resolve of the Armed Forces will not slacken until banditry is wiped out.

Meanwhile, there is no clear indication of the number of people who have been killed in the ambush. Newspapers here put the number of the dead between at 70 and 130. However, it is widely believed that the number of the dead could be yet higher than that because the convoy consisted of 30 vehicles with six buses completely riddled with bullets. A driver of one of the ambushed buses told THE NEW VISION from his hospital bed that he saw very many dead bodies both inside and outside the buses. Survivors said the rebel LRA were heavily armed while the military escort was small and there was no way a small number of government soldiers could have beaten off such an attack. More rebel attacks have been reported in the vicinity of Gulu. [end recording]

**South Africa: Paper Urges Mandela, ANC To
Break Ties With Past Friends**

*MB1103184496 Johannesburg RAPPORT
in Afrikaans 10 Mar 96 p 18*

[From the "Actuality" column by Izak du Plessis]

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been quite a controversy this week over President Nelson Mandela's willingness to listen to members of the Palestinian terrorist organization, Hamas, or its "allies."

The president said he would receive all those who visited him. He believes this gives him an opportunity to state his case and to hear other sides, as well. It is a credible personal view, but in the diplomatic world it does not work that way. Who you receive or not receive conveys a message. China is now still furious about President Bill Clinton allowing Taiwan's president to visit the United States last year; so much so that tensions resulting from the incident have still not been quelled.

In a world of extremely thorough diplomatic rules of conduct, President Mandela ought to revise his attitude toward international [words indistinct] enough, the Libyan leader, who cruelly suppresses any resistance to democracy in his country, awarded the al-Qadhdhafi Peace Prize to President Mandela and the ANC in 1989.

While the rest of the world wants to know what al-Qadhdhafi knows about "human rights," President Mandela nevertheless defended Libya, and thanked it for its assistance in the fight against apartheid.

President Mandela's other international "leper" friend, Cuba's Fidel Castro, is in trouble with the biggest power on earth, the United States. People are leaving his Cuban dictatorship like fleas leaving a dead dog. But after the fall of the Soviet Union, he still clings stubbornly to communism. This "great democrat" put a small group in jail a month ago after they had silently criticized his reign of terror.

Despite all these atrocities against democracy which have been going on for the last 40 years, President Mandela has never said anything against them. On the contrary, in August 1984 he received one of Cuba's honors, "The Star of International Friendship."

Mandela and the ANC fraternize with those that have no international friends; with outcasts. But it's currently more real than ever before.

Soon the Truth and Reconciliation Commission will begin its sessions. Before that same commission, atrocities about suppression by the "apartheid regime" will be untangled. Justice Minister Dullah Omar said unequiv-

ocally: The liberation struggle was morally right, while the defense of apartheid was a crime against humanity.

But was everything so simple? What about Cuba, Libya and the Soviet Union? Thus far very few people have had the courage to question this, for fear that it would be interpreted as an apology for apartheid.

Recently, however, Institute of Race Relations President Hermann Giliomee took this first courageous step by questioning the ANC's past and its type of friends: "Let me ask this question. In 1980, when the final phase of the struggle between the ANC and the government started, what type of democracy was advocated by many ANC members? My answer is: The democratic centralism of communities such as in the Soviet Union and Cuba." And, he added, in 1980 these countries fared worse than South Africa in the protection of human rights, according to a well-known human rights organization, Freedom House!

But Professor Giliomee has only touched lightly on the past. He could, for instance, have referred to East German leaders, the ANC's friends, who are currently being charged in Germany for human rights abuses.

There is a myth that has to be unveiled. The "struggle" over decades was not only of democratic freedom fighters who were helped by international angels to overthrow the suppressive apartheid rogues. No, on the one hand was an undemocratic ANC and company, assisted by extremely suppressive regimes, and in many respects their soul mates. On the other side was an apartheid regime with an offensive record. Neither of them can claim angel status.

The important difference, however, is that the former supporters of apartheid have abandoned their friends and ideology. Mandela and the ANC still are clinging to their friends of the past, as if they smelled of Chanel No. 5. No wonder international nonentities are keen to visit this country.

Some of the leaders and officials of the past are expected to confess. The ANC can also do it. It could start by distancing itself from its foul-smelling international friends and revise its guest list. It will thereby be sending a clear message that it also wants to put its past in perspective.

South Africa: Arms Dealer Linked to Unauthorized Flights to Namibia*MB0803165896 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN in English 8-14 Mar 96 p 10**[Report by Stefaans Brummer]*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] South African arms dealer Ters Ehlers — ex-President PW Botha's last private secretary — has been implicated in "unauthorised" flights of a Russian cargo aircraft between South Africa, Namibia and Angola.

Namibian Deputy Minister of Transport Klaus Dierks last Friday [1 March] said his department had grounded the Russian-registered Antonov-12 in Grootfontein pending an investigation by police.

Dierks claimed the aircraft operator, said to be a Nelspruit-based Russian, had not complied with legislation to operate the aircraft from Namibia. He said Ehlers had approached him earlier to allow the aircraft to fly supplies to Angola, but he had told him to apply to the country's transport commission. The aircraft then started operating from Grootfontein without permission, Dierks charged.

When impounded last Friday, the Antonov was said to be taking on a cargo of fuel for delivery in Angola. That country's UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebel movement is still embargoed by the United Nations from receiving arms or fuel.

Ehlers — who was charged last year by the United States-based Human Rights Watch to have supplied arms to Rwanda's defeated Hutu army in contravention of a UN embargo — this week acknowledged he had "applied to the ministry (of transport) for permission to operate out of Namibia", but denied the cargo on the intended flight from Grootfontein was his.

The Human Rights Watch claimed in a report last year that Colonel Theoneste Bagasora, a senior member of the Hutu military blamed for the genocide in Rwanda, had met South African officials in 1994 to arrange arms for his army, then already defeated and exiled in neighbouring Zaire. Bagasora was introduced to Ehlers, who allegedly flew two plane-loads of weapons from the Seychelles to Goma, a Zairean town on the Rwanda border and site of large Hutu refugee camps.

The United Nations Security Council is holding inquiry into allegations that the defeated Hutus had been supplied with arms by countries and individuals including Ehlers. South Africa's Cameron commission is also looking at the allegations.

Ehlers, a navy commodore tipped to be chief of the Navy before then-defence minister Magnus Malan sec-

onded him to Botha, is known to have had dealings in the international arms market and to have close ties with senior African politicians.

Also closely connected to controversial Italian businessman Mario Chiavelli, Ehlers in 1990 became managing director of the South African branch of the Seychelles-based conglomerate GMR, which is widely held to have played a sanctions-busting role in the 1980s and early 1990s.

The South African branch of GMR was established in the mid-eighties by Craig Williamson, South African Police and later Defence Force "superspy".

South Africa: IFP — Foreign Investors Lack Confidence in ANC Regime*MB0803171496 Pretoria Radio Pretoria in Afrikaans 0520 GMT 8 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] says the fact that reports about President Mandela's health have a negative effect on international markets is proof of a lack of confidence by the international community in the ANC as the governing party in South Africa. The IFP spokesman in KwaZulu/Natal, Ed Tillet, said the slightest flutter is apparently enough to cause waves in the stock market. He said until such time that the stigma of doubt and suspicion toward the ANC is removed, the chances are slim that the outside world will invest in South Africa.

South Africa: Buthelezi Urges Reinforced Security for Mandela at Meeting*MB1203122296 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi says he cannot guarantee President Nelson Mandela's safety at Friday's preparatory meeting for the imbizo [traditional Zulu gathering]. The meeting is set to take place at KwaNongoma in KwaZulu/Natal.

Mr. Buthelezi told SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news that he had suggested to provincial premier Frank Mdlalose that security be reinforced for the president.

[Begin Buthelezi recording, in progress]...and I could not say, myself, that I, as Buthelezi, guarantee the safety of the president. But I have expressed concern about it, in fact, because there have been some incidents in Nongoma, which have not been very reassuring, and that's why, in fact, from the very beginning, even in talking to the president, I had said that the choice of the first place that they've chosen was not very, very

good, to me, from the point of view of security. [end recording]

South Africa: Yengeni To Transform Defense Force, Armscor

MB1103194596 Johannesburg SABC 3 Television Network in English 1800 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] From now on, the Defense Force is going to be more open to the public. To begin this process, Defense Minister Joe Modise and Army Chief Georg Meiring have been invited to appear before a Joint Standing Committee on Defense. Within the next two weeks the committee will also meet Armscor's [Armaments Corporation of South Africa] entire board of directors. The committee's chairperson, Tony Yengeni, says the meetings were necessary for a complete transformation of the National Defense Force and Armscor.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Mkhokheli Thanda] The Defense Force and Armscor, which in the past have operated in top secrecy, will from now on be an open book to the public. That's according to Mr. Yengeni, who told a parliamentary briefing that Defense Committee members needed to be fully informed about all aspects of the Army, Navy, and Air Force in their respective policies.

In reviewing the National Defense Force, he said it was the Parliamentary Committee's intention to pay a visit to all command structures of the Army, including its medical services. One aspect of the proposed review of the Defense Force could be the greater use of Defense Force members in combating crime, and helping to improve poor national health services.

[Yengeni] We'll be looking at possibilities of ensuring that this Defense department is able to provide health services, not only in relation to the Defense department of the Defense Force, but generally to society.

[Thanda] Mr. Yengeni said there was still disagreement on the medium of instruction, religion, and inclusion of gays in the Army. The ANC believes only one language should be used for instruction and believes neither different religions nor gays should be discriminated against. A month ago, President Mandela reprimanded the Defense Committee for proposing English as the only medium of instruction in the Army. This would have meant doing away with Afrikaans.

[Yengeni] Of course, you cannot apply and communicate in all 11 languages in a battle situation. You have to communicate in a language that's understood by all the combatants.

[Thanda] A policy framework for the department is now only expected to be finalized by the end of the year. [end recording]

South Africa: Minister Says Coastline Patrol 'Inadequate'

MB1103181196 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1514 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] NATIONAL ASSEMBLY March 11 SAPA — Law enforcement along the South African coastline was cause for concern, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said on Monday.

In written reply to a question by Farouk Cassim (IFP) about the policing of South Africa's maritime zone to protect national marine resources, De Villiers said the Department of Sea Fisheries was doing its best.

But even with the support of the Airforce, Navy, Police water wing and vessels from the deep sea trawling industry, "the fact remains that the patrolling of our shore and sea is inadequate".

The main reason was shortage of funds.

South Africa: Police Discover Cache of Homemade, Commercial Explosives

MB1103170296 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1422 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BLOEMFONTEIN March 11 SAPA — Police acting on a tip-off unearthed a variety of bombs containing more than 60kg of home-made and commercial explosives on a smallholding near Bloemfontein on Sunday afternoon.

The cache included landmines and anti-personnel bombs. Bags of prepared explosive and commercial detonators were also found, and some of the bombs were apparently aimed at children.

Washing pegs, mousetraps, gas cylinders, fertiliser and pencil boxes were among the items used to make the bombs. Some of the bombs had been placed in brightly coloured pencil boxes, filled with quantities of commercial explosive and a simple detonator. Two gas cylinders, fitted with time switches, had been filled with home-made explosive made from fertiliser. Soft plywood boards had been nailed together in a way that they could be buried to serve as triggers for landmines.

Provincial commissioner Lieb de Wit said the smallholding at Kwaggafontein was searched with the help of a dog trained to locate explosives. When the dog showed a positive reaction, explosive experts were called in. A

rusty steel trunk, wrapped in black plastic and tied with nylon rope, was dug up.

De Wit said the discovery of the explosives [words indistinct] was appreciated.

Supt Colin Robertshaw, of the Internal Stability Unit, said the bombs were anti-personnel systems that had been built to kill many people. This was the largest such find in the past 12 months. The find has not yet been coupled to a specific person or organisation.

South Africa: AWB Denies Aiding Bombing Suspects Escape From Prison

*MB1103130096 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1115 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg march 11 SAPA — The Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging's [Resistance Movement; AWB] threat to free rightwing prisoners would only be carried out if civil war broke out in South Africa, spokesman Fred Rundle said on Monday.

Denying the organisation had anything to do with the escape of four AWB members and a fifth man from Diepkloof prison near Johannesburg on Friday, Rundle said: "We won't be so stupid."

Trying to free AWB members from prison in current circumstances would only endanger their lives. "But it will be a different story in a civil war situation. Then anything goes," Rundle said in Johannesburg.

AWB leader Eugene Terreblanche on Saturday demanded the release of rightwingers in jail. "They (the government) must let the Boers out of their cells or the Boers will free the Boers," he told supporters in Germiston on the East Rand.

Rundle said the timing of Terreblanche's warning was merely a coincidence. "Truth is sometimes stranger than fiction," he said. "We had nothing to do with Friday's escape."

The four AWB members who escaped from Diepkloof prison are Etienne le Roux, 43, Nicolaas Barnard, 34, Adam "Koper" Myburgh, 25, and Jan de Wet, 25.

They have been charged with 20 counts of murder and 46 of attempted murder for their alleged part in the 1994 pre-election bombings. The four were to appear in the Rand Supreme Court again on March 29. A fifth man, 18-year-old Solomon Zabane who was due to appear in court on April 15, escaped with them.

Correctional Services spokesman Brig Chris Olckers said in Pretoria it appeared the men had keys to their cells. The men sawed through two grill-doors and smashed open a reinforced steel door.

Olckers on Monday said a high level investigation into the escape was being conducted under Correctional Services Deputy Commissioner Timothy Khoza. A police probe was also underway.

"We are looking into all facets, and the investigation could take a week or 10 days," he said.

Gauteng police spokesman Supt Eugene Opperman on Monday said police were conducting a countrywide search for the escapees. All border posts, airports and harbours had been alerted.

He expressed confidence that the men would be found. "We have already received a few telephone calls which we are following up," Opperman said in Johannesburg. "Even if it takes five or 10 years, we will find them. There are not many places where they can hide."

Rundle said he had no information on the whereabouts of the escaped men. "Nobody in our organisation's top structure has the faintest clue of where they could be."

South Africa: De Klerk Called 'Coward' on Afrikaans Schools Issue

*MB0803184996 Johannesburg NEW NATION
in English 8 Mar 96 p 5*

[Article by Hennie Serfontein]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] There are some crucial questions about the role of Deputy President FW de Klerk in the ongoing drama around certain Afrikaner schools, which have not only been unanswered, but which are seldom raised in this emotional debate.

How is it possible that after six years of intense negotiations between the ANC and NP [National Party], there is still so much uncertainty, especially in Afrikaner ranks, about what the legal rights are of the formerly all-white Afrikaner schools? How is it possible that a shrewd politician, lawyer and negotiator such as De Klerk has failed to establish crystal clear about what the constitutional and legal rights are?

It seems that amongst Afrikaner supporters of the National Party, the Freedom Party, the Conservative Party and even the Democratic Party, and also amongst Afrikaner educational organisations, there is a widespread belief that Afrikaner schools could use language and religion as qualifications for admission.

But this view is clearly rejected by the national and provincial departments of Education of the Government of Unity [NGU] — of which the NP is one of the big partners.

The Transvaal Supreme Court has also rejected exclusive ethnic schooling and talks doing rounds in the legal

fraternity are suggesting that it is doubtful that the Constitutional Court would give a different view.

Afrikaners across the political spectrum want to know how De Klerk could have allowed himself to be outmanoeuvred by the ANC at the conference table in Kempton Park on one of the most sensitive issues in Afrikaner politics. And why is he refusing to admit the NP blunders?

So far, De Klerk has not shown compelling moral leadership on this issue. It is being argued in political circles that he must carry most of the blame for the present educational uncertainties with its confrontations at schools, court interdicts and appeals, and also threats to go to the Constitutional Court.

As the debate began to unfold around the educational issues last year, it would have been generally expected that De Klerk would publicly inform and provide guidance to the Afrikaner community. After all, he had a moral obligation towards them. Most of them voted in several elections and referenda for him in the past few years. During these events, he often boasted and promised that a separate future existed for Afrikaners at schools.

Last year on some occasions he claimed that the Constitution would provide legal defence to Afrikaner schools, so that character and ethos could be retained. Subsequently, statements by the Hunter Commission and other government bodies contradicted him. Finally, the Supreme Court has confirmed that De Klerk and the NP had been wrong.

It is significant that in the first two months of this year, De Klerk has hardly raised his voice about this crisis. Some say that he is trying to position the NP to a situation where it no longer is structured as a white-dominated party, so that it can appeal to the black majority. If this is so, it seems his traditional Afrikaner supporters would therefore be left in the lurch.

His most recent comment in the education crisis has been to criticise the school council of the Laerskool Potgietersrust, accusing it of racism. Significantly a letter in a newspaper, apparently written by a person who is probably anti-rightwing, said De Klerk was correct in his criticism on racism, but that his comments were "totally irrelevant". The writer said De Klerk rather had to answer the question why he and new NP secretary general Roelf Meyer had failed in the Kempton Park negotiations to ensure that Afrikaner schools would be legally protected. [passage omitted]

Worst for De Klerk is that his continued inaction in the sphere of education has left him open to criticism from other Afrikaaner opposition ranks who accuse him

of being a political coward. Thus there was also the recent intervention by President Nelson Mandela who defused the confrontation between the NGU and the school council of the Laerskool Potgietersrust.

Mandela announced that he was asking De Klerk, Constand Viljoen and Fergie Hartzenberg to intervene and find a solution. On television, Mandela announced that he was sending De Klerk as his representative. But De Klerk did not make it to Potgietersrus and was instead represented by an arch verkrampste NP leader in Northern Province, Andre Fourie.

Once again he avoided his moral responsibility, losing a chance to exert courageous political leadership in an open field and before people who desperately needed this. [passage omitted]

It is argued that because of the NP's present move to reach out to blacks, it is not politically correct to get involved in exclusive Afrikaner issues at all. But this is nonsense.

This is so because the same De Klerk who is throwing his own or former supporters to the wolves, publicly and adamantly defends Magnus Malan and the other generals appearing in court for activities committed in the height of apartheid repression in the 1980s.

The charges faced by the generals in the Durban courts fill black South Africans, including the most conservative, with far greater revulsion than the issue of Afrikaans schools — an issue for which there seems to be some sympathy and understanding for Afrikaner fears.

South Africa: AWB Leader Terreblanche Addresses Rally

*MB0903182296 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1429 GMT 09 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG March 9 SAPA — Eugene Terreblanche, leader of the far-right Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement] (AWB), on Saturday said he would consider uniting with other right-wing political parties but under one condition. "I will not be prepared to take anything less than half of their leadership," Terreblanche told a group of 300 armed khaki-clad supporters ranging from grandmothers to toddlers.

Arriving in a muddy bakkie stocked full of saddles, Terreblanche bellowed demands for a sovereign Volkstaat and protection of Afrikaans in schools and on television to attentive members taking notes and snickering at seemingly racist jabs. "We are no longer prepared to look at ugly blacks with bulging eyes and to be fed English from them," he said.

Terreblanche criticised the country's dependence on President Nelson Mandela and predicted a civil war if Mandela fell ill. "Who is governing this country," he asked. "We have a political situation where the economy is linked to the heartbeat of a 77-year-old jailbird. No one has been governed by a government of jobless and illiterate people."

The East Rand chapter meeting came hours after the overnight prison break of three AWB members accused in the pre-election bombing that claimed the lives of 21 people.

Terreblanche said if the government did not release all of the AWB prisoners, there would be more prison breaks. "They have to bring the Boers out of their cells otherwise [word indistinct] I am AWB because they want to fight for our language and they want the place to be like it was, not the new South Africa but the old South Africa," said 12-year-old Hendrik Barnard dressed in camouflaged fatigues and an AWB cap. "Inside blacks are the same...but we still don't like them."

Terreblanche accused leaders such as Winnie Mandela, former Cabinet minister and estranged wife of President Mandela, of organising a revolution amongst squatter settlements to get whites off land. "We are not going to be kicked out of this land. If they want peace then they need to give us land," he yelled.

South Africa: FF Condemns ANC Delay in Prosecuting AWB Members' Killer

MB1103175196 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Freedom Front (FF) says delaying the prosecution of a Bophuthatswana policeman who shot dead three right wingers three years ago, would amount to meddling in the judicial process.

Freedom Front spokesman Joseph Cheole accused the ANC of dragging its feet to the advantage of the policeman. He was reacting to reports that Justice Minister Dullah Omar had requested a delay of the officer's prosecution pending the finding of a commission of inquiry into the incident.

The shooting happened during a popular uprising in the homeland. Mr. Cheole said it was scandalous that the officer was still employed by the South African Police Service. The three right wingers, Mr. Sarel Fourie, Mr. Alwyn Wolfaardt, and Mr. Fanie Uys were shot dead in Mmbatho two years ago after a group of AWB [Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging; Afrikaner Resistance Movement] members invaded the homeland

in an attempt to keep former Bophuthatswana President Lucas Mangope in power during the popular uprising.

South Africa: Cost of Malan Trial Described as 'Excessive'

MB1103173096 Johannesburg SAsm in English 1436 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DURBAN March 11 SAPA — The prosecution of former Defence Minister Magnus Malan and 19 others will proceed regardless of cost. Natal attorney-general Tim McNally said in the Durban Supreme Court on Monday.

McNally was commenting on rumours that the cost of the trial would be excessive, with some reports suggesting it could run to R10 [rands] million.

"Justice is a priceless commodity... it will be pursued in this case no matter what the cost. This prosecution will cast a shaft of judicial light into a corner of our judicial history that has been dark and secret," he said.

McNally said the South African Defence Force had spent R7.6 million on military training for Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) members between 1986 and 1990. This had been done to bolster the IFP against the United Democratic Front.

According to the indictment, IFP members were trained in the Caprivi Strip in the then South West Africa and some were later instructed to carry out hit squad attacks.

South Africa: Ex-Security Police Commander Applies for Amnesty

MB1103130196 Johannesburg SAsm in English 1145 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town Mar 11 SAPA — Former Vlakplaas commander Col Eugene de Kock, who is on trial on 121 charges including eight of murder, has applied for amnesty from the Truth Commission, his attorney Schalk Hugo said on Monday.

Hugo told SAPA some of the offences for which De Kock was seeking amnesty were not among the charges he was currently facing. The former head of the security police's secret base near Pretoria had filled out a copy of the prescribed amnesty application form and posted it to the commission last week, he said.

In terms of the legislation governing the commission, its five-member amnesty committee headed by Judge Hassen Mall can ask the "appropriate authority" to postpone the court proceedings pending the outcome of the application.

However, Hugo said Transvaal attorney-general Dr Jan D'Oliviera had indicated he wanted the trial to proceed

and that there was no possibility of it being suspended. De Kock had also told his legal team the "proceedings must go on".

The three-page application form which De Kock filled in, provides 10 lines for the applicant to give particulars of the political offences for which amnesty is being sought, and two lines for the names of the victims. In completing the form, De Kock was also required to explain why he believed the offences were associated with a political objective.

However, according to Hugo, he did not include any details of the 121 charges against him.

South Africa: Former Defense Minister, 19 Others Plead Not Guilty

MB1103125596 Johannesburg SAsm Radio Network in English 1100 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Former Defense Minister Magnus Malan and his 19 co-accused have pleaded not guilty in the Durban Supreme Court to 13 counts of murder and other charges. The charges include attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder, arising from the KwaMakuta killings south of Durban in 1987.

Thirteen people were killed in a massacre. The accused were asked to plead individually. The first witness, Mr. (Anthony John Volker) of the Criminal Records Center in Pretoria, began his testimony a short while ago.

Meanwhile, about 100 IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] members have gathered outside the front entrance of the court, apparently in support of one of the accused, Deputy IFP Secretary General M. W. Khumalo. ANC supporters are at the side entrance of the court. Both groups are calm, and it appears neither wants to risk an incident. However, a water canon has arrived outside the Supreme court, in the event that police have to disperse the two groups.

South Africa: ANC Seeking New Possibilities for Rural Local Government

MB1003200496 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1758 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JOHANNESBURG March 10 SAPA — An African National Congress Gauteng provincial congress resolved at the weekend to set up a task team to investigate an alternative system of rural local government, the party said in a statement on Sunday.

The congress of 180 members from the Gauteng provincial legislature, municipal and local councillors, party executive members and alliance partners expressed con-

cern at the crisis in rural local government and among traditional authorities.

The congress found rural local councils were not economically viable, were based largely on apartheid demarcation patterns and that farmworkers still did not have access to land and were being evicted from farms, the statement said.

There was a carry-over of apartheid colonial traditional structures in the interim constitution that was causing conflict in rural areas and inherited laws inhibited transformation in local government administrations.

Rural councillors had no executive powers and had to use their meagre allowances on travel expenses.

The task team would conduct an audit of all provincial laws and by-laws for revision, amendment and repeal and investigate setting up alternative bridging local government legislation for rural councils. Consideration would be given to appointing lawyers to draw up proposals to reform these laws, the statement said.

South Africa: ANC Official Addresses Rally in KwaZulu/Natal

MB0903183196 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1807 GMT 09 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MANDENI, Northern KwaZulu/Natal, March 9 — Communities in KwaZulu/Natal must help police and the army to bring perpetrators of violence to book, Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale said on Saturday. Sexwale told about 1,800 African National Congress supporters at a rally in Mandeni about 100 kilometres north of Durban to co-operate with security forces which were there for the people.

The rally was held in a mainly Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] stronghold near Isithebe. A strong security force presence was maintained at and near the Mandeni sports ground throughout the rally, but no incidents were reported.

Almost a year ago several people were killed in the ongoing fighting between the ANC and IFP in the region. President Nelson Mandela visited the area after a massacre last May.

Peace initiatives involving the ANC, the IFP and the Mandeni town council since then have succeeded in quelling political violence.

Area head for visible policing Director Abrie le Roux said the arrest of several people implicated in violence and increased security force patrols had helped bring peace to the region.

An enthusiastic crowd cheered and surged forward to greet Sexwale as he arrived. But ANC marshals maintained a tight cordon between the VIP tent and the crowd which included several hundred teenagers and even toddlers singing and toying [political dancing] with adults.

Sexwale is scheduled to address a public meeting in Richards Bay on Saturday.

South Africa: Government To Increase Pay for Civil Servants

*MB0803174696 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1659 GMT 8 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CAPE TOWN March 8 SAPA — The minimum starting wage for public servants is to be increased by 29.5 percent from R13,200 [rands] per annum to R17,100 per annum, it was reported on Friday.

The increase formed part of a new salary upgrading system which aimed to streamline the public service and which would be implemented over the next three years. The decision was taken in the public service bargaining council's chamber at central level on Friday, spokesman Thandeka Gqubule said in a statement.

The package consisted of four interrelated components. There would be remuneration adjustments for the three periods — 1996/7, 1997/8 and 1998/9 — during which the new system would be implemented. The public service would be "right-sized" in accordance [words indistinct] would be used as a means of promoting mobility among public servants.

The exact method of implementation was still to be finalized. The new grading system would be effective from July 1 this year.

Earlier reports that there was a deadlock in negotiations were incorrect, Gqubule said.

South Africa: 1,000 Workers Protest Retrenchment at Firestone Plant

*MB1103155296 Johannesburg Saffm Radio Network
in English 1400 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Production at the Firestone tire plant in Port Elizabeth has ground to a halt with a strike by more than 1,000 workers belonging to the National

Union of Metal Workers of South Africa [NUMSA]. NUMSA says in a statement that members decided to go on a strike because the company failed to bargain in good faith with the union, and that they had gone ahead with 120 retrenchments without proper consultation.

Further grievances include the fact that the company had not been open with the trade union in negotiations on the planned reduction of the work force. NUMSA Regional Secretary (Bimba Manqabashana) said the trade union also plans to approach its members in the car industry and other Firestone plants for possible solidarity action.

South African Press Review for 12 Mar

MB1203131096

[FBIS Report]

THE STAR

Call For Action Against Whites Trying To Resuscitate Apartheid — "It is time the Government sent an unambiguous message to whites who are trying to resuscitate apartheid in this country," states Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 12 March in a page-12 editorial. "Bringing to an end the racial battle at the Laerskool Potgietersrus provides the ideal opportunity." THE STAR urges the Northern Province government to "take quick action". Since the school's governing body's "racist actions" are in violation of the province's Education Act, the member of the Executive Council "should dissolve the governing body" and "anyone breaking the law should be arrested and charged."

SOWETAN

White 'Racists' Dependent on Black 'Magnanimity' — "The trouble with white racists like the Afrikaner Weerstandsbeweging's [Resistance Movement] Eugene Terreblanche is that they think they alone own this country, and that they can threaten and boss everyone else around," notes Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 12 March in a page-8 editorial. What they need is for someone to tell them the "home truths perhaps with the brutal frankness of a Robert Mugabe, that they are a minority of a minority and that they are able to do the irritating things they do largely because of the magnanimity of the black majority. Will someone in Government tell them!"

Angola

Angola: President Dos Santos Leaves for Portugal

MB0803142696 *Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1200 GMT 8 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has left for Portugal to attend the swearing-in ceremony for new Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio on 9 March. The Angolan head of state is accompanied by Gomes Maiato, minister of commerce; Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola secretary for external relations; and senior officials from his office. [passage omitted]

Portugal: Angolan President Attends Sampaio's Swearing-In Ceremony

MB1003165096 *Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 9 Mar 96*

[Report by Pedro Manuel]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos today attended Portuguese President Jorge Sampaio's swearing-in ceremony.

Portugal has promised that, should it be necessary, it will strengthen its UN peacekeeping force in Angola. This promise was made by Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres after a meeting with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to discuss bilateral cooperation issues.

[Begin recording] [Dos Santos] First, I would like to convey my satisfaction, and that of the Angolan Government, at being here to attend President Jorge Sampaio's swearing-in ceremony. In addition, we would like to thank Portugal for its efforts to help Angolans build on their peace and seek the path of national reconciliation. We also discussed bilateral cooperation, about which I am sure Prime Minister Guterres will have something to say. I am happy with the outcome of our work, and I think it will help strengthen bilateral relations at all levels.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, you said there is some concern [words indistinct] the principal concern (?shared by) Angola and Portugal?

[Dos Santos] Yes, there are concerns, but I think the prime minister will want to touch on that matter, seeing that he is the host and the head of the Portuguese Cabinet.

[Correspondent] Mr. President, kindly allow me another question: Today, Portugal is a completely socialist country. The president, the prime minister and his cabinet, and the mayors of such important cities as Lisbon, Oporto, Coimbra, and Setubal all have ties

with the Socialist Party. Do you think this will help Portuguese-Angolan relations?

[Dos Santos] I think it will make our relations easier in the sense that those officials will all speak one language. In other words, they will all reflect the same political thinking. Be that as it may, it is not for me to comment on Portugal's internal affairs. I think a policy is in place to continue bilateral relations. I think the evolution of the situation in the two countries will be important, but the policy of Angolan-Portuguese relations is above (?personalities). [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] I do not know whether to pose this question to you, Prime Minister Guterres, or to you, President dos Santos: (?When and where) will the next Dos Santos-Savimbi meeting take place?

[Dos Santos] I have told Prime Minister Guterres that my next meeting with the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola leader will take place in Angolan territory.

[Correspondent] Are there new developments concerning Dr. Savimbi's reply to your invitation that he accept the post of vice president?

[Dos Santos] Not yet.

[Correspondent] Angola is a very large country, 14 times the size of Portugal. Will the meeting take place in Luanda?

[Dos Santos] Luanda would have been preferred, but no venue has not been agreed on yet.

[Correspondent] What about a date for the meeting?

[Dos Santos] The date has not been set yet. [end recording]

Angola: Portuguese Foreign Minister Arrives in Luanda 11 Mar

MB1203074096 *Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 12 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Portuguese Foreign Minister Jaime Gama has arrived in Luanda. He is scheduled to meet Dr. Pitra Neto, minister of public administration, employment and social welfare, and National Assembly chairman Fernando Franca van Dunem.

Angola: Cabinda Separatists End 'Inconclusive' Meeting

MB0903175796 *London BBC World Service in Portuguese 2030 GMT 8 Mar 96*

[From the "Londres Ultima Hora" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Cabinda issue again attracted much attention this week. Twenty Cabinda po-

litical organizations and nationalist associations ended a conference on the oil-rich enclave's future in the Gabonese capital today. Observers have described the meeting as inconclusive. The Cabindans only agreed to continue talking at another meeting in two months. It is thought that concrete proposals to settle Cabinda's problems will be discussed at that meeting. Above all, those organizations must decide which of three options — independence, regional autonomy, or integration in a future federal state — they will take up with the Angolan Government at future talks.

Reverend Justino Wako, deputy speaker at the meeting, told the BBC he was cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the meeting:

[Begin Wako recording] This is difficult work. We have taken on an extremely difficult mission. Nonetheless, there has been good guidance and work is being done in the best possible conditions. Absences are not significant. The biggest absentee was the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave-Renewed, which did not come to Libreville to participate in these proceedings. [passage omitted]

I am not going to be overly optimistic about these talks. On the other hand, I have never been a pessimist. Cabindans are now much more mature. In the past, we had different thoughts and our disputes were much more visible. Today, we all talk of unification, and we are working to achieve a solution as rapidly as possible. The Angolan Government is waiting for our answer, and we cannot do anything other than to heed the call for us to organize as quickly as possible. [end recording]

Comoros

Comoros: Two Candidates To Compete for Presidency 16 Mar

EA0803194396 *Mayotte Radio France Overseas in French 1600 GMT 8 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Comoros, Messrs Mohamed Taki Abdoul Karim and Abbas Djoussouf have won in the first round of the presidential elections held in the Comoros last Wednesday [6 March]. They will, therefore, participate in the second round on 16 March. About 270,000 voters participated in the elections and the total recorded participation rate was 64 percent. For the atmosphere on the spot in Moroni, let us listen to our colleague, (Kamaledin Saidou):

[Begin (Saidou) recording] [Words indistinct] hours after the first round of presidential elections of 6 March in the Comoros, the ballot verdict came in this morning. Nor was it a surprise, for Mohamed Taki Abdoul Karim has once again confirmed his popularity by winning 21 percent of the votes, ahead of the 14

rivals. [Words indistinct] Abbas Djoussouf managed the second position with a little over 15 percent of the votes.

The big loser of the elections seems to be Omar Tamu of the Udzima Party which brought President Djohar to power in (?1986), who lost ground and only managed a third position with only 13 percent. All the other candidates came in under the 10 percent landmark.

However, the announcement of the results has so far evoked no reaction from the population, neither euphoria nor hostility. The candidates have also remained very discreet. Only the Udzima Party called its supporters to a meeting this afternoon, most likely to agree on the position to be taken in the second round of elections on 16 March, in just seven days' time. The second round is promising to be very tight for Taki and Abbas, who will not avoid the game of political alliances with their former opponents. Negotiations have in fact already started, but no firm commitment has been officially announced by the other candidates, although the electoral campaign resumes tomorrow, Saturday at 1000. [end recording]

Mozambique

Mozambique: Former Guerrilla Movement Threatens To Resume War

MB1203103396 *Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 11 Mar 96 p 3*

[FBIS Translated Text] Jose Frederico Goncalves, a senior member of the unregistered Mozambique Democratic Union (Udemo), could opt for war to either rise to power or to put pressure on the government to fulfill pledges made when Udemo armed men formed a coalition with the defunct FAM/FPLM [Mozambique Armed Forces/Popular Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique]. Led by Gimo Phiri, who lives in Malawi, Udemo has been campaigning since 1976 for a federal system in Mozambique.

Goncalves, who claims to be the head of the National Organization and Mobilization Department, says Udemo has 3,000 armed men in the bush, who are ready to fight. Goncalves, who also told Radio Mozambique of the movement's intention to wage war, justified such an intention on the fact that President Joaquim Chissano told the fourth parliament session that he had made no deal with Gimo Phiri.

Chissano, who was answering a question from Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] MP Francisco Rupansana, said the government had made no deal with Gimo Phiri, and that the latter was merely a Renamo dissident who sought help from the government to fight Afonso Dhlakama's former rebel movement.

Goncalves says "Udemo had agreed with the Mozambican Government to join hands with FAM/FPLM to fight Renamo, to be reintegrated into society, to enjoy demobilization allowances, and to be registered as an armed opposition force in the country.

President Chissano told parliament that several of Gimo Phiri's soldiers had been demobilized, but did not say what happened to other Udemo armed men who are scattered in the bush. Goncalves demands that like his comrades in arms who have been demobilized, senior Udemo members, who were marginalized during the demobilization period, should be treated equally. He wants the government to assist Udemo members as part of reintegration projects prescribed in the General Peace Accord's demobilization program.

Goncalves added: "We waged war, killed and some of us gave our lives, only to be marginalized. What was the purpose of fighting for 18 years?" He noted that such efforts must be compensated.

Asked whether he would not prefer to talk instead of waging war, Goncalves says Udemo has sought a negotiated solution to its grievances, but the government is insensitive to them. He said: "African governments never accept talks as a way of settling differences. They prefer to stifle the opposition and kill its members."

Goncalves denied that Udemo men are the ?nes that have been seen in various parts of the country, stressing that there should be no confusion between Udemo, Chimwenje (Torch), Naparama (government-sponsored counterinsurgency unit), and other groups of armed robbers. Asked to elaborate on Udemo's logistical sources to sustain another war, Goncalves said his men will survive in the bush as they did for 18 years, adding that as a guerrilla tactic there would be raids and robberies. On whether Udemo had sufficient weapons for a new war, Goncalves said "everything that man does stems from planning. If we decide to wage war again it is because we are logistically organized." When NOTICIAS asked whether any country had pledged assistance to Udemo's guerrillas, Goncalves said that that is a strategic issue, adding that "if ours is a just struggle, someone might look after us."

Initially known as the PRM (Mozambique Revolutionary Party) and thereafter as Unamo (Mozambican National Union), Udemo has been active since 1976, a year before Renamo began its war. Udemo merged with Renamo, but afterward joined the government. With the introduction of multipartyism, there was a split within Unamo, from which Udemo stemmed and has since been operating illegally. Udemo's headquarters or central base is located in Zambezia Province's Namuli mountain. Udemo seeks a federal system for Mozam-

bique, dividing the country into two autonomous and independent states [as published] in the northern and southern regions.

Mozambique: Soldiers Urge Chissano To Clarify Allowances Issue

MB0803193996 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1730 GMT 8 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Demobilized government and Renamo (Mozambique National Resistance) soldiers in Sofala Province wrote to President Joaquim Chissano on 12 February, seeking clarification about the payment of allowances over a 20-month period. UN Development Program (UNDP) representative Eric de Mul had previously stated that allowances would be paid, but now the soldiers say neither the UNDP nor any other agency wish to comment.

The letter says, quote, we who have built peace used to be useful, but now we are regarded as useless because every agency has turned a blind eye on our problems. No one has made any statement since DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE carried a report on the issue on 5 February 1995, unquote. The letter cites De Mul as having told DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE that UNDP would pay allowances for 12 months and the government for eight.

The demobilized soldiers, who have established an ad hoc commission to represent them, have accused the government of disregarding their rights. The soldiers say the pledge to pay the allowances is baseless and want their allowances settled. The letter, signed by six representatives of 9,400 demobilized soldiers, asks President Chissano to comment by no later than 10 March.

Mozambique: Minister Admits Privatizations Led to Mass Dismissals

MB1103155196 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 1400 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Luisa Diogo, planning and finance deputy minister, has acknowledged that the privatization process taking place in the country has resulted in massive dismissals of workers from companies. Luisa Diogo presented in Parliament this morning the general framework of the privatization process in the country. She said the government is pursuing the process with maximum caution. Deputies have begun debate of the draft law which introduces changes to law No. 15/91 on privatizations.

Zambia**Zambia: Chiluba Criticized For Seeking Bill To Preserve Power***MB1103151196 Lusaka THE POST in English
11 Mar 96*

[Editorial: "Chiluba Given More Power"; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Frederick Chiluba and his Movement for Multiparty Democracy government must be condemned by all democrats because of their intentions expressed in the draft constitutional bill now before Parliament.

The bill has the worst intentions, especially the move to destroy the judiciary in this country by giving President Chiluba power to dismiss judges of the Supreme and High courts.

This move can only be described as both despicable and dangerous. It is despicable because it shows in stark terms the quality or lack of it of the leadership whose aim is self-preservation at the expense of the majority.

It is dangerous because it exposes the levels of selfishness of these leaders, but also shows that they do not care whether this country lives in peace or is torn by civil strife.

The actions by Chiluba's government to reintroduce the Public Order Act with more powers to the police, which are deliberately loaded against the people of Zambia, illustrates in the simplest manner the character of the man who claims to be a 'born again' Christian, but whose actions are far from Christianity. Zambians in general are unfortunate because they have a man in State House who they overwhelmingly elected in 1991 more because of his rhetoric rather than his actions, on behalf of the ordinary man in the street. The Chiluba the public knew in 1991 was much on rhetoric and devoid on the truth they now know.

And perhaps with the exception of Labour Minister Newstead Zimba, Home Affairs Minister Chitalu 'Stalin' Sampa, who have been his close associates, no one else knows the hidden intentions of the man in State House other than what his actions show. Sampa knows what his leader wants. He worked and crushed all opposition to him in the Zambia Trade Union Congress. He is ready to do so now using the Zambia Police force and other instruments of power which his being minister of home affairs can harness.

Others like Legal Affairs Minister Remmy Mushota or State House assistant Eric Silwamba have been busy putting legal verbiage to what can best be regarded the strongest attack yet on democracy. We have seen

their hand in the enactment of the Land Bill. Protests from chiefs and other interest groups were ignored and pushed aside.

We have seen it in President Chiluba's ban of THE POST newspaper edition 401. We have seen it yet again in the passing of the Public order Bill, an action which has ignored all protests from Zambians.

All these actions are intended to terrorise the public into submission, the so-called culture of silence which Chiluba accused the people of during the second republic. For it appears that, apart from the sweet tongue of yesterday, there is nothing in our president but a dictator of the worst kind. For what else can we deduce of a man who uses the majority in his rubber stamp Parliament to thwart the little dissent he perceives of everything around him?

Unless something happens to stop the man in State House today, we have no doubt that Zambians will wake up one day only to find every normal human action has been criminalised in order to preserve Frederick Chiluba in power.

Zambia: Legal Bodies Berate President's Power To Remove Judges*MB1103151496 Lusaka THE POST in English
11 Mar 96*

[Received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Supreme and High Court judges whose judgments do not please President Chiluba could soon be sacked by the president for "gross misconduct" under a little-publicised amendment proposed to the Constitution. They could also be sacked for any actions they may have committed in the past and before adoption of the Movement for Multiparty Democracy [MDD]-approved draft constitution now awaiting the statutory 30 days notice before it is debated.

Draft bill Number 17, dated February 23 and signed by Attorney General George Chilupe, will give the president broad new power to remove judges, in addition to the president appointing a tribunal as provided in the present constitution. The article, if passed, will for the first time in the history of the Zambian judiciary give the president power to say whether judicial decisions are acceptable or not. According to Article 98 (3) of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, "a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court shall be removed from office by the President, subject to ratification by the National Assembly, for gross misconduct."

The article defines gross misconduct as "the taking into account, in the making of a decision in any case,

extraneous considerations whether political, personal or otherwise, which have the effect of causing gross misapplication or misinterpretation of the law resulting in gross injustice to an individual or the State or to the general public welfare and good governance."

The judges, once so removed "shall not be entitled to a full pension." Further, the draft amendment gives power to the MMD dominated National Assembly to make laws which are retrospective.

Article 78 (7) says that "no law made by Parliament shall come into operation until it has been published in the GAZETTE but that Parliament may postpone the coming into operation of any such law and may make laws with retrospective effect." The provision on removal of judges, regarded by legal experts as an obvious threat to judges, will affect the independence of the judiciary in general, affect the performance of judges not toeing the executive line. "There is no law anywhere in the world where a judge can be removed for misinterpreting the law. This is completely against legal principles," said Robby Shabwanga, of the Legal Resources Foundation yesterday.

Political observers say government appeared angered by the recent Supreme Court decision to declare sections of the Public Order Act unconstitutional and thereby giving free rein to people to assemble or demonstrate. "This clause specifically targeted at the judiciary clearly shows that the MMD government would like a free hand to tamper with the independence of the judiciary," said Zambia Democratic Congress Vice-President Kasukwa Mutukwa in an interview yesterday. Recently the Supreme Court has come under attack from government leaders including Vice-President Godfrey Miyanda, who questioned the court's ruling on the Public Order Act. The provision in the draft constitution appears to aim at such judges as Chief Justice Matthew Ngulube, Supreme Court Justices Dennis Chirwa and Weston Muzyamba who sat on the panel that ruled against the Act's provisions. [no end quotes as published]

Zambia: Opposition Criticizes Bill Increasing Presidential Powers

MB1103155096 Lusaka THE POST in English
11 Mar 96

[Report by Reuben Phiri; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Opposition parties and human rights organisations have reacted sharply to an article in the draft constitutional bill empowering the President to dismiss Supreme or High Court judges.

Section 98 (3) grants the President power to remove a judge from office subject to ratification by the Na-

tional Assembly, for gross misconduct which 98 (5) defines as: "the taking into account of extraneous considerations whether political, personal or otherwise, which have the effect of causing gross misapplication or misinterpretation of the law resulting in gross injustice to an individual or the state or to the general public welfare and good governance." Liberal Progress Front secretary Rolf Shenton charged that the whole constitution was a "fraud".

"I don't want to discuss any part of the constitution. The whole thing is just a fraud which is just being imposed on the people," he said.

The Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) charged that the clause was meant to undermine the judiciary. "There is no law anywhere where a judge can be removed for misinterpreting the law, this is completely against the legal principles," LRF legal officer Robby Shabwanga said, adding: "This shows how intolerant the government is towards calls for an independent judiciary." But efforts to get a comment from the government officials failed. Vice President Godfrey Miyanda, chief government spokesman Amusaa Mwanamwambwa and Home Affairs Minister Chitalu Sampa were all said to be out of Lusaka. And Zambia Democratic Congress (ZDC) Vice-President Kasukwa Mutukwa said, "the constitutional making process had a totally punitive approach and should be rejected by the people". "This clause specifically targeted at the judiciary clearly shows that the MMD government would like to have a free hand to tamper with the independence of the judiciary," Mutukwa said in an interview yesterday.

National Party secretary general Akashambatwa Mbikusita Lewanika said the MMD government had personalised the constitutional process. "This shows the personalised partisan position from the government in trying to intimidate the bench into making decisions in line with their political considerations," Lewanika said.

But CHAKA [expansion unknown] party president Jairus Kalisilira suggested that the independence of the judiciary can only be maintained if the existing parliamentary system is changed. "What we need is to have an upper and lower house system of parliament. Appointments should be done by the upper house so that the President becomes a complete servant of the people," Kalisilira said.

Zambia: Chiluba Hosts Dinner for South African Foreign Minister

MB1003131696 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2021 GMT 09 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LUSAKA March 9 SAPA — South Africa's government supported developing

democracy in Zambia and would also support the government which won this year's elections, Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo said on Saturday.

Speaking a dinner hosted by Zambian president Frederick Chiluba, Nzo said South Africa, as part of this support, would address the two countries' trade balance which favoured South Africa. South African exports to Zambia between January and August last year totalled about US\$218 million, while imports from Zambia to South Africa amounted to about US\$15 million. It was clear the trade balance has remained heavily in South Africa's favour and this needed to be addressed as soon as possible, Nzo said. "In our view the welfare of southern Africa is inextricably linked to a balanced economic development of the sub-region as a whole."

Young democracies in southern Africa were fragile and needed to be nurtured if they were to endure. Democracy, Nzo said, also demanded a commitment to protect human rights, promote individuals' freedom and uphold the rule of law.

Zambia: South African, Zambian Editors Protest Arrest of Journalists

MB0803184796 Johannesburg MAIL & GUARDIAN
in English 8-14 Mar 96 p 5

[Report by Justin Pearce]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Newspaper editors from South Africa and Namibia are to visit Zambian president Frederick Chiluba to demand the release of the two Zambian journalists who were rested this week. The journalists face an indefinite prison term if a court application to secure their release is not successful.

South Africa's Black Editors' Forum, Conference of Editors and Freedom of Expression Institute (FXI), the South African Chapter of the International Press Institute and the Media Institute of Southern Africa have asked for a meeting with Shiluba to protest against the arrests.

Fred M'membe, editor-in-chief of THE POST, and managing editor Bright Mwape were arrested on Monday [4 March] on the orders of Dr. Robinson Nabulyato, the speaker of Chiluba's Parliament, who also ordered they be detained "for an indefinite period" without trial. They are to appear in court on Tuesday [words indistinct] Until then, they remain in custody. On Wednesday, Zambia Home Affairs Minister Chitalu Sampa published a statement in the state-owned ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL saying the journalists were common criminals and would not be released.

The speaker is empowered to order a detention in terms of the Protection of Parliamentary Privileges Act, a law

inherited from British colonial rule. Lawyer Sakibwa Sikota believes the law has not been invoked in Britain since the 18th century, and that it is at odds with civil liberties provisions in the present Zambian Constitution. The law will be tested against the Constitution at a supreme court hearing in May.

Last week, the speaker ordered the arrest and detention of M'membe, Mwape, and columnist Lucy Sichone, in connection with a column written by Sichone. Sichone did not report to Parliament for arrest with her colleagues on Monday, and her whereabouts are still unknown.

In the column, published on January 29, Sichone defends a supreme court ruling which served to strike down as unconstitutional certain sections of Zambia's Public Order Act, which limited the right of citizens to hold public gatherings. Vice-president Godfrey Miyanda spoke out in Parliament against the court's decision. Sichone's column lambasts Miyanda for questioning the authority of the court, particularly since it was the only courageous judicial intervention which secured Miyanda a fair trial when he was detained.

The arrest of M'membe and Mwape is the culmination of an increasingly acrimonious relationship between THE POST and the Chiluba government.

When Chiluba's Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD) was campaigning for the 1991 elections, THE POST's recently-founded predecessor THE WEEKLY POST was one of the few newspapers which was with him in his denunciation of corruption and incompetence by the Kenneth Kaunda government.

If Chiluba ever thought THE POST's opposition to Kaunda would make the paper a natural supporter for his own government, he was wrong. THE POST demonstrated its independence by refusing to let the new rulers get away with corruption or hypocrisy.

The result was what THE POST's staff see as a systematic campaign against the paper, which ranged from members of the MMD Youth League storming THE POST's office and threatening journalists, to a catalogue of criminal charges against the paper's employees. Sikota said he could not remember exactly how many charges were still outstanding against M'membe, in addition to the decree by the speaker, but there were at least eight. The most recent was a charge of criminal libel after the paper suggested that one of Chiluba's aides was untrustworthy.

Mosautso Phiri, who is acting as editor in M'membe's absence, said the harassment of the paper began in earnest in the middle of last year, when THE POST suggested Chiluba had been born in Zaire, not Zambia.

This followed attempts by the government to keep Kaunda out of future presidential elections on the grounds he had been born in Malawi.

The circumstances of M'membe and Mwape's detention were also extraordinary. Normally, the commissioner of prisons decides where prisoners are to be held, but in this case the chief inspector of police intervened and ordered Mwape be imprisoned in Kabwe, more than 100km from Lusaka. Sikota believes the government is deliberately trying to keep M'membe and Mwape apart.

In its haste to secure an arrest, Zambian police last week arrested two POST photographers and a security guard — all male — claiming to have mistaken them for the wanted journalists, despite the fact that Sichone is a woman.

The government mouthpiece the ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL also accused the German embassy in Lusaka of sheltering the journalists — an accusation denied by ambassador Peter Schmidt.

Also, while the speaker claims to have the powers to impose an "indefinite" sentence on the journalists, Phiri says the law under which they were arrested does not allow for more than a year's jail sentence.

South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs has also expressed concern over the arrests, as have opposition parties in Zambia. A member of the Zambia Democratic Congress said: "Chiluba is a worse dictator than his predecessor, who, at his very worst, never did what his government has done this week".

Benin**Benin: Ruling Party on 'International Plot' To Destroy Democracy**

AB1103164796 Parakou Chaine Regional de l'Office de Radiodiffusion- Television du Benin Radio in French 1300 GMT 11 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Benin Renaissance Party [PRB] has decided to make some clarifications. Members of President Soglo's reelection campaign team yesterday gave a news conference on the political situation in our country during this electoral period. Here is our correspondent with the details:

[Unidentified correspondent] From the 3 March elections to yesterday, unlike some political parties, the PRB has not as yet made any statements on the political situation in our country. This silence does not mean that everything is going well in Benin after the first round of presidential elections. Members of President Soglo's reelection campaign therefore took the occasion to denounce what they term threat over the young Beninese democracy. According to Theodore Holo and Yves Monou, organizers of the news conference, a vast international plot aimed at destroying the Beninese democracy is rearing its ugly head on the horizon. Theodore Holo enumerated the signs of such an international plot which, according to him, has chains at the national level.

[Holo] The first sign of this plot lies in the deliberate refusal to let Beninese abroad to participate in the elections, contrary to what was decided at the national conference, and contrary to what was done in 1991. Undoubtedly, they know that our compatriots abroad would not condone a situation aimed at restoring dictatorship in Benin. This plot is also demonstrated by the fraud detected here and there in some regions of our country, where minors were seen voting, where ballot boxes were stuffed. This plot is also manifest in the calls by some candidates eliminated right from the first round on their supporters to vote for General Mathieu Kerekou, who came second in the first round of election. And this is not all: the kidnapping of the subprefect of Boukombe, the disappearance of the representative of PRD at Nattitingou, the recent incident at Tangieta are all part of this plot, Yves Edgar Monou added. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Concerning Adrien Houngbedji's statement to support Gen. Kerekou in the second round, this is what Theodore Holo had to say about the contacts made by the PRB with the PRD's candidate:

[Holo] We had contacted candidate Adrien Houngbedji and we had arrived at advanced stage in our negotiations. We agreed with the demands he made and to preserve democracy in our country, when the handwrit-

ten copy of the agreement was presented to candidate Soglo, he accepted these demands. But within the time this agreement was concluded and the time it was going to be processed — a period of an hour — candidate Houngbedji changed his mind and called on his supporters to vote for Mathieu Kerekou. [end recording]

Benin: Cotonou Youth Denounce Opposition Alliance With Kerekou

AB1103123596 Parakou Chaine Regionale de l'Office de Radiodiffusion- Television du Benin Radio in French 1300 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The youths of Cotonou from all political leanings this morning organized a protest march through the streets of the city in support of Nicephore Soglo. This march follows Adrien Houngbedji's and Bruno Amoussou's declared intention to give their massive support to Mathieu Kerekou, because they deem such an alliance as abnormal. Here is a report from a colleague in Cotonou:

[Begin recording] [slogans are chanted, followed by unidentified correspondent] This was the atmosphere prevailing this morning throughout the city of Cotonou. Starting from the Etoile Rouge Square, several hundred Cotonou youths walked the distance from the Attonkpa Market passing through the Hall des Arts, the Hotel du Port, the Marina road and ended their march at the residence of President Nicephore Soglo. Along their route, they chanted slogans hostile to the opposition and displayed placards on which one can read the following: "No to the return of dictatorship in Benin"; "For the safeguard of democracy let us all be mobilized around Soglo"; "We, PRD taxi drivers say no to mediocrity in our country."

Later on, the youth delivered a message in which they denounced the alliance between the Democratic Alternative in Africa, the Party of Democratic Renewal [PRD], and Kerekou. They then assured President Soglo of his reelection on 17 March 1996. What is interesting about this march is that even the youth of PRD participated. In a motion, they decided to dissociate themselves from the PRD. Here is an excerpt of the message:

[Unidentified Youth] We, the youth of (Sitadji), Sainte Erita, Tonato, and Kodji, reject the watchword issued by our leader, Houngbedji, and proclaim loud and clear that the watchword is binding on him and only him. Therefore, we dissociate ourselves from the party and are ready to vote massively on 17 March for Nicephore Dieudonne Soglo. Long live the Beninese youth, united for progress.

[Correspondent] In response to their motion, President Nicephore Soglo called on the youth to cover all the regions to detect those buying voters' cards and then become mobilized for the 17 March round of elections. [end recording]

[Announcer] The PRD youths of Porto-Novo have expressed similar discontent. In a press communique, the PRD youths of Porto-Novo speak of an anti-democratic choice. Roger Adama reports:

[Adama] The PRD youth of Porto-Novo says their leader's choice does not take into consideration the wishes of most of the PRD youth committees and therefore this choice is binding only on Adrien Houngbedji. Conscious of the stakes in the runoff of the presidential elections, the PRD youth of Porto-Novo, led by Francois Ajayi Biokou, chairman of the PRD youth movement group, decided to support Nicephore Soglo's candidacy. Better still, they called on, I quote, the forces of progress to vote massively for Nicephore Soglo to preserve the achievements of the Democratic Renewal. [no end quotes as heard]

Cote d'Ivoire

Cote d'Ivoire: Defense Minister Ends Tour of Abidjan Units

AB1103075696 Abidjan TV-Deux Network in French
2030 GMT 9 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New Defense Minister Bandama N'Gatta has visited all the military units in Abidjan. The visit, which began on 4 March, ended yesterday. Correspondent Louis Adje has the details:

[Begin recording] [Adje] The institution that is said to be always silent is not so silent. It has at last spoken, but it was to its minister. It spoke its mind to its top officials in order and discipline, but freely and with discernment at the end of a seminar on the Army. No issues were avoided. Let us listen to the minister speaking of the institution:

[N'Gatta] Our Armed Forces are and must remain the symbol of national unity as well as the reliable and unquestionable instrument of our country's will for peace and independence. Those objectives cannot be achieved without the establishment of simple relations of confidence and esteem.

[Adje] Direct contact increases knowledge. It helps resolve a lot of problems together and even to establish a beneficial equilibrium between the rights of the citizen and of the community. That is why the defense minister uses it as much as possible. Mr. N'Gatta is of the view that we must protect the soldiers and grant them at least the minimum pending better days, but at the same time,

we must safeguard the principles that guarantee Armies' strength.

On 4 March, he visited elements of the First Infantry Battalion, First Armored Battalion, and Sol-Air Artillery Battalion. The rest are the Paratrooper Rapid Intervention Force and the Bingerville Technical Preparatory Military Academy. On 5 March, he visited elements of the National Gendarmerie, Agban Barracks as well as Abobo and Yopougon Squadrons. The rest are the Port Security Group, Airport Security Group, Koumassi Squadron, and the National Gendarmerie School. The defense minister urged each of the elements — officers, non-commissioned officers, and the rank and file — from all the services to question themselves so as to adapt themselves to the socioeconomic life of our present time.

The Command Battalion and the Service Battalion covering the major divisions of the Army Staff and the Ministerial Groupings of General Resources then received together the defense minister. The mission of the first battalion is to provide the National Armed Forces of Cote d'Ivoire [FANCI] troops with human and material support and supplies. The second one comprises the personnel of all the administrative services of the Ministry of Defense. All the services were highly represented to inaugurate the establishment of frank relations with Minister N'Gatta.

The dialogue that prevailed at the FANCI General Staff also prevailed at the Military Fire Brigade. This unit, which is part and parcel of the FANCI, has been put at the disposal of the Ministry of Interior and National Integration for use. It, first and foremost, remains as the other formations of the Armed Forces, a unit operational round the clock. In 1995, the fire soldiers responded to 14,500 calls for assistance, that is 40 interventions per day. While, remaining loyal to their motto — To Save or Perish — they handed over to the minister a series of grievances and expressed the hope that they will be given favorable consideration.

The Presidential Guard and the Militia were created in 1960 before they were militarized four years later. On 7 June 1990, the Presidential Guard became the Republican Guard to ensure the protection and security of the president of the Republic and top officials of the state. Also, the Presidential Guard became the Republican Guard to take part in functions of honor during visits of foreign top officials and to participate in enforcing law and order. During the visit, officers, noncommissioned officers, and the rank and file expressed the same concern as the minister, but exercised patience since they are still moved by the will to grow in peace.

The first mission of the Air Force is to ensure the defense of air space. In peace time, the role of the Air Transport and Liaison Group [GATL] is limited to deterrent operations, surveillance, and drilling. The rest are training of pilots and maintenance of the equipment. The GATL participates in all humanitarian missions such as aid, rescue, transfer of patients, and other social operations. It was important that after the national airline, Air Ivoire, was separated from the GATL, our Air Force elements discussed with the minister. Of course, they held discussions and understood each other.

On 8 March, the minister of defense visited the Navy, where he had this to say:

[N'Gatta] You must put an end to disgraceful behaviors unworthy of a soldier, but which have been unfortunately seen over the past few days. The military profession is a noble one and a true vocation based on dedication which can lead, if necessary, up to supreme sacrifice. That is what makes it a respectable and respected profession, but this respect should be deserved through such fundamental values as discipline — major strength of the Army — loyalty, and dignity. The rest are availability, rigor in commanding troops and executing orders, and finally obligation to be discreet — so many duties which inspire respect for and confidence in soldiers nationwide; so many duties which justify the specific rights granted them in return. Any behavior contrary to the above-mentioned values is intolerable. Also, any individual who will indulge in such a behavior cannot remain in the military institution, and I will pay particular attention to that.

[Adje] By the time the minister arrived at the Locodjro naval base, the news of the promotion of a senior officer had already received there, and people rejoiced over it. Colonel Timite Lassana, chief of defense staff of the FANCI, was appointed to the rank of rear admiral. The appointment has brought the number of rear admiral to two in the FANCI. The first is Lamine Fadika, present minister of mines and petroleum resources. The newly promoted senior officer was officially congratulated by the minister of defense shortly before the naval elements met at the hall of the base to bring to the attention of the defense minister a number of suggestions resulting from the present situation of the National Navy. The dialogue that prevailed at the discussions was frank and sincere. [end recording]

Cote d'Ivoire: National Assembly Ends Session, Adopts '96 Budget

AB0903185096 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 9-10 Mar 96 p 7

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The 1996 third extraordinary session of the National Assembly ended its deliberations yesterday with the adoption of this year's budget. "I am happy about your active participation in these complex deliberations. I am particularly happy about the work done by the parliamentary groups as it facilitated the deliberations in commissions..." The preceding sentences are excerpts of Speaker Charles Donwahi's speech that marked the end of this budget session, and he had reasons to be satisfied.

The Ivorian parliamentarians had just adopted the 1996 budget which stands at **1,750 billion CFA francs**. He had reasons to be satisfied because examining a budget is a difficult and complex operation. The debates in commissions and at the plenary session resulted in rows. The General Operating Budget for 1996 amounts to 1,394 billion CFA francs, that is with an increase rate of 148.95 percent compared to that of 1995. The Special Investment and Equipment Budget [BSIE] was balanced in revenue and expenditure at 356.272 billion CFA francs. The 1996 BSIE has also recorded a high increase of 96.061 billion CFA francs, that is an increase rate of 37 percent. [passage omitted]

Cote d'Ivoire: National Islamic Council Ends Congress, Adopts Resolutions

AB1103153996 Abidjan Radio Cote d'Ivoire Chaine Nationale-Une Network in French 1900 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The first ordinary congress of the National Islamic Council [CNI] ended at the Grand Mosque in Riviera. The incumbent CNI leader El Hadj Idriss Koudouss Kone was reelected for another three-year term. The resolutions adopted by the participants include the following: 1) The desire to see religious values taught at all levels of the educational system; 2) The setting up of an observatory to see to it, among other things, that the state keeps strictly to its secular character and to point out any deviation from the application of lay principles by the state. Just after his reelection, Mr. Kone explained to our correspondent, Yves Duro Degonsa, the program he intends to implement:

[Begin Kone recording] Our objectives for the coming years are as follows: 1) Make the Islamic community make effective and qualitative contribution to the nation's construction efforts. This participation in our country's socioeconomic development will require the establishment of reliable management bodies in our

mosques to permit the improvement of the living conditions of our Imams; 2) The improvement of the status of women, our everyday companions; 3) The consolidation of the bases that we have laid throughout the country through periodic consultations and regular visits; 4) The establishment of radio stations, first in Abidjan, and then in the interior of the country. 5) The drawing up and organization of training programs for association heads to enable them carry out their daily duties better and permit them to have a better knowledge of their religion; 6) The promotion of Islamic teaching; 7) The fight against social scourges like increasing unemployment, poverty, drugs, juvenile delinquency, and crime in all its forms; 8) The pursuit of rapprochement with all the other religious denominations through all appropriate means, especially through voice and print media. [end recording]

Liberia

Liberia: Update on Aftermath of Kakata Fighting

AB1103131196 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 10 Mar 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Charles Taylor's fighters have seized control of the Liberian town of Kakata from Roosevelt Johnson's faction, ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia]. The NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] is reported to have moved in on Friday [8 March] afternoon, and there were serious clashes involving heavy artillery. Last week Johnson was sacked by his own colleagues in ULIMO and so lost his right to a post in the transitional government. Our correspondent, Nyenati Allison, has been in Kakata this weekend and he telexed this report on the aftermath of the fighting:

The bloody fighting has left Kakata completely deserted. Bullet holes riddle the surrounding buildings while the personal effects of fleeing civilians were scattered about the city center. Shops ran by Johnson's Krahn rebels had been looted of their entire contents. Overturned vehicles lay by the road side, many of them still ablaze. Juju charms left behind by fleeing Krahn rebels littered parts of the city, where rubber had been stockpiled awaiting transport to the capital.

Hundreds of civilians fleeing the fighting were seen moving on foot in the direction of Monrovia, while others including dozens of Johnson's loyalists had sought refuge at the nearby base camp of the African peacekeeping force. Taylor, who arrived in Kakata brandishing a gleaming Kalashnikov rifle and wearing a camouflage bullet-proof vest, told reporters he had been forced to take control of Kakata to secure the trunk road

linking his central Liberia headquarters to the capital and to safeguard the civilian population.

I will not sit down and see Liberia in total chaos while I have the capacity to help normalize the situation, Taylor said, adding I have acted properly and promptly to bring the situation under control. Taylor said he would withdraw his forces and turn the city over to the new ULIMO leadership of (William Carey) to oversee the installation of a civilian administration in Kakata.

Liberia: Taylor Installs Civilian Administration in Kakata

AB1103214396 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 11 Mar 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ULIMO-J [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia-Johnson faction] fighters appear to be on the run in central Liberia in the face of an all-out offensive by Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] forces. On Saturday [9 March], ULIMO were driven out of Kakata by Charles Taylor's men and the fighting then spread to Bong Mines. And now, that too has fallen to the NPFL. Our correspondent, Nyenati Allison, has been in Kakata today and he telexed this report:

ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] peacekeeping sources in Kakata said today that Taylor's forces overran Krahn rebel positions in Bong Mines at the weekend after a two-day-long fierce gun battle. The ECOMOG sources said the NPFL were now in firm control of Bong Mines which lies about 58 miles north of Monrovia. Hundreds of Roosevelt Johnson's Krahn loyalists were said to have abandoned Bong Mines before an NPFL force of artillery vehicles finally moved into the town. The ECOMOG sources said thousands of civilians who fled the fighting in Bong Mines have begun returning from the surrounding forests where they sought refuge.

The fighting in Bong Mines followed earlier clashes between Taylor's militias and fighters loyal to the ousted ULIMO-J leader in Kakata itself, which is also now in the hands of the NPFL. Those clashes forced the displacement of some 10,000 civilians, a quarter of them elderly people. Aid workers at the ECOMOG peacekeeping forces base camp southwest of Kakata where civilians have sought refuge said the displaced were faced with acute shortages of food and medicine.

Today, more displaced people were arriving at ECOMOG Kakata base camp which is already overflowing

with women, children, and the elderly. Defeated fighters loyal to Roosevelt Johnson have also been seeking refuge with ECOMOG. Soldiers of the Armed Forces of Liberia, who were caught up in the fighting in Kakata, said some one dozen of their colleagues have been killed in the cross-fire.

The fighting in Kakata was sparked by the blockade by Krahn rebels of the main highway linking Monrovia to Taylor's headquarters in Gbarnga, north of Kakata.

Charles Taylor himself and his entourage of aides arrived in Kakata this afternoon to install a civilian administration, replacing the NPFL commanders who seized control of the city from ULIMO-J fighters on Saturday [9 March]

That telexed report came from Nyenati Allison who is now back in Monrovia.

Niger

Niger: CSN Chairman Returns From Nigeria, Comments on Visit

AB0903185496 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 8 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] National Salvation Council [CSN] Chairman Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara returned to Niamey this afternoon following a 48-hour friendly and working visit to Nigeria. He was met on arrival by the CSN vice chairman and the prime minister. He was later greeted by cabinet ministers and heads of state institutions. Col. Ibrahim Mainassara gave an account of his Nigerian visit at the VIP Lounge of the Diori Hamani International Airport. He was interviewed by Moussa Hamani:

[Begin recording] [Mainassara] The visit I have just completed in the Federal Republic of Nigeria is part of direct contacts I have decided to establish with heads of state of neighboring countries to reinforce dialogue and understanding, which are indispensable to our common option of good neighborliness, as well as subregional and regional integration. We have realized that our neighbors showed understanding for the 27 January events.

During my visit to Nigeria, I held a series of discussions with Nigerian Head of State General Sani Abacha. I took the opportunity to convey my thanks to the Nigerian Government and our brothers, the Nigerian people, for having shown solidarity and sympathetic understanding toward the Niger Government and people, especially in view of the economic and structural problems facing our country. Gen. Abacha and I reviewed African and international issues. We agreed to work toward the strengthening of regional and subregional economic

integration because we regard it as an essential factor for the restoration of the dignity, identity, and independence of African states.

In conclusion, I can say that I am extremely satisfied with the visit. Above all, I was deeply impressed with Gen. Abacha's commitment, which without doubt, augurs well for a new dynamism in relations between Niger and Nigeria. It also reflects the aspirations and expectations of the numerous Nigerois who are resident in Nigeria and with whom I met at our embassy in Abuja. They in turn pledged to participate actively in the national reconciliation and development efforts embarked upon by the CSN and the government. That is what I can say about my visit.

[Hamani] Mr. President, your departure for Nigeria coincided with the announcement of the resumption of French cooperation with Niger, which was suspended following the 27 January events. What significance do you attach to the decision by the French authorities to resume cooperation with Niger?

[Mainassara] It is only normal that France, which has always been our partner, would resume relations with us following a careful analysis of the prevailing situation in Niger. Our relations should certainly not have been suspended, so we are pleased that relations between France and Niger have returned to normal. [end recording]

Niger: Leader Discusses Return to Democracy, Visit to Algeria

LD1003201296 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of his visit to Algeria, Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, chairman of the National Salvation Council in Niger, held a news conference this afternoon during which he assessed the result of his first visit to Algeria since assuming power in Niger. Here is a brief account of the news conference in a report by Zine El Abidine Bouadja:

[Bouadja] In his introductory statement at the news conference, Col. Ibrahim Barre Mainassara assessed his visit on the basis of his talks with President Zeroual and the Niger delegation's talks with the Algerian authorities.

The talks focused on the two countries concerns, which include four aspects of bilateral relations. These are good neighborliness, constructive neighborliness, belonging to the Saharan Sahel region, and the Saharan and African integration, in addition to international issues.

Col. Ibrahim Barre added that he found an understanding with President Zeroual regarding the situation and events that have taken place in Niger since 27 January when President Mahamane Ousmane's regime was overthrown.

Numerous questions were asked by correspondents about the military coup and the post-coup period. Chairman of Niger's National Salvation Council attributed the causes of the coup to the existence of many recent problems in Niger, including unpaid wages, the spread of diseases, and — the most serious — the state institutions reaching a dead end.

Col. Ibrahim Barre said that the democratic experiment in Niger did not come with the expected development.

The National Salvation Council has set a plan for a transitional period of seven months, during which basic laws, such as laws on political parties and elections, will be reviewed in preparation for a return to the democratic track.

If Niger witnessed the latest military coup in a world that is more open to democracy, that is because every country has its own reality, Col. Ibrahim Barre concluded.

**Niger: CSN Chairman Issues Communique,
Returns from Algeria**

*AB1103190396 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network
in French 0545 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, chairman of the National Salvation Council [CSN] and head of state, returned to Niamey yesterday after a 48-hour friendly working visit to Algeria. In a statement, the head of state said that the visit he had just made to Algeria was part of the permanent contacts with sister countries to strengthen dialogue and mutual understanding. Commenting on the political aspect of the visit, the head of state said the following:

[Begin Mainassara recording] In the political sector in particular, President Lamine Zeroual and myself exchanged views at length on development in the domestic political situation of our respective states. In this regard, I noted with satisfaction that President Zeroual and the Algerian people follow with great attention, interest, and esteem development in the political situation in Niger. They also hailed the maturity demonstrated by the Niger people in finding simple and lasting solutions for the (?country). Furthermore, they hailed the efforts made by the CSN and the government to achieve national reconciliation, socioeconomic recovery, and stable democracy. [end recording]

The end of the visit was marked by a communique, the highlights of which are the following:

According to the communique issued at the end of the CSN chairman's visit, the discussions held by Col. Mainassara and President Zeroual in the presence of both countries' delegations centered on bilateral relations as well as on regional and international issues affecting our two countries. Concerning the exemplary relations maintained by Niger and Algeria, Col. Mainassara and President Zeroual expressed satisfaction with the positive results obtained thanks to the implementation of the measures and decisions adopted at the recent session of the Niger-Algeria commission for cooperation held in Algiers on 25 through 29 October 1995. In this regard, the two heads of state reaffirmed their determination to strive for strengthening and diversifying bilateral relations. In the same vein, they reaffirmed the need to further consolidate the tradition of dialogue and consultation existing at the level of the two countries' top officials. They reiterated their commitment to consolidating the good relations existing among neighboring countries. That is why President Zeroual and CSN Chairman Mainassara appealed for increasing consultations among member states of the large Sahelian-Saharan grouping.

Another issue at the center of the two leaders' discussions was democracy and stability. They expressed their strong support for the continuation of the democratization process initiated in both countries, adding that it is an irreversible choice which meets the two peoples' legitimate aspirations to enjoy stability, well-being, and security. The two heads of state then recalled that the consolidation of democratic culture should be done by taking into account social and cultural values specific to each (?people). They also reaffirmed the adhesion of Niger and Algeria to the UN and OAU objectives and ideals — two organizations they consider as privileged frameworks for achieving and consolidating peace, solidarity, and prosperity for the various countries and peoples in the world. It is in this regard that they strongly condemned the indiscriminate use of violence and terrorism as a way of expressing political views.

Concerning trade, the Niger and Algeria delegations agreed on the need to define a legal framework to ensure security for and encourage trade. This will be done when Algerian businessmen arrive in Niger for visit this month. Two agreements being currently examined will be signed, that is one on trade and tariff and another on barter.

The Algerian head of state will make a state visit to Niger at the invitation of the CSN chairman. The date of the visit will be fixed later.

Niger: President Mainassara Comments on Results of Algeria Trip*AB1103211096 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The chairman of the National Salvation Council [CSN] ended a 48-hour friendly working visit to Algeria. At the end of the visit and prior to his departure for Niamey, the head of state, Colonel Ibrahim Barre Mainassara, gave a news conference during which he mentioned several current issues, among others, the effects of the 27 January 1996 events on relations between Niger and his traditional partners, notably France and the United States, voluntary repatriation of Nigerois refugees in Algeria, and the fate of 24 April 1995 agreements signed between the government of Niger and the Armed Resistance Organization [ORA]. We bring you the head of state's response on the above issues:

[Begin Mainassara recording] Before my departure, right at the eve of 6 March, a meeting was held with members of the mediation committee on Niger's conflict which discussed the plight of the displaced local people who were forced to flee from the conflict and insecurity in the north. After the 27 April events, one of our priorities was to find a definitive solution to the northern problem and we pledged to implement very rapidly the provisions of the 24 April 1995 agreements because it was for us a challenge to face and [words indistinct] were highly optimistic, for I personally closely followed the docket and everyone saw that after the 27 April events, among the first support message we received was that of ORA and [words indistinct]. That was very significant. [passage omitted] There were messages from the ORA and ACRA movements and this was quite significant and today more than ever the necessary conditions have been met to finally move quickly forward toward peace, security. In the same framework, it was envisaged to exchange viewpoints with member countries of the mediation committee, especially with Algeria where there is a large Niger community. During my stay, I took the opportunity to thank Algerian President Lamine Zerual and the Algerian people for the fraternal support given to the Niger community which enjoyed tranquility and understanding and [words indistinct] and also pledged to adopt all the necessary measures to ensure a smooth and orderly return of our compatriots. [end recording]

Concerning the relations between Niger and some of its partners following the 27 January events, the head of state noted with satisfaction the positive turn in their position.

[Begin Mainassara recording] As you must have observed, there has since been a positive turn in the position of certain countries, particularly France. Also concerning the USA, we have also noted that there has been an effective shift in their attitude to us, they have modified their initial position. [Words indistinct] we did not wait after the 27 January coup d'etat [words indistinct] for we know that it was not at the appropriate time for taking advantage of democratization process, there are still some soldiers who have erupted on the political scene, they could not be appreciated, and this is why we came to understand that we probably did not imagine the scope of the condemnations of the international community which was not convinced about the rightness of the coup d'etat and especially, the motives behind our decision to stage the coup but we maintained our stand, thanks to the support of and sympathy of the Niger people because the future of the Niger people was at stake. What we need is the support of the international community and their confidence in the Niger people. [end recording]

Nigeria**Nigeria: Government Urges NAM To Counter Western 'Interference'***AB1003190396 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 0600 GMT 10 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria has called on the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] to form a common bloc to protect developing countries from undue interference by developed nations in their internal affairs. The minister of information and culture, Dr. Walter Ofonagoro, made the call in Pyongyang at a meeting with the North Korean vice premier and minister of arts and culture, Mr. Chang Chol.

Dr. Ofonagoro stated that Western nations have been making attempts to recolonize and control the developing countries since the end of the Cold War. The minister praised North Korea for not yielding to such pressures.

Responding, Mr. Chang commended Nigerians for their response to government efforts to restore democracy in their country.

Nigeria: Government To Demand Reparation, Apology From Cameroon*AB0903204096 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 1700 GMT 9 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigeria may demand for the payment of reparation by Cameroon for the loss of lives of its citizens and damage done to their property in the

Bakassi Peninsula. The minister of justice and attorney general of the Federation, Chief Michael Agbamuche, stated this while addressing the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

He said Nigeria would also, at the right time, demand for apologies from Cameroon for its recent action against the country. The minister described the (?January) local elections, conducted by Cameroon in the peninsula, as illegal and constituting an act of provocation.

Nigeria: Abacha Approves Dissolution of Boards of 2 Oil Corporations

*AB1103221596 Lagos NTA Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of state has approved the dissolution of the boards of Unipetrol and African Petroleum with immediate effect. A statement signed by the secretary to the government of the federation, Alhaji Idado Idriss, directs the chief executives and managing directors of the two companies to oversee the establishments until new boards are set up.

Nigeria: Oil Minister Blames Fuel Scarcity on 'Unpatriotic' Citizens

*AB1103222096 Lagos NTA Television Network
in English 2000 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Petroleum Resources Minister Chief Dan Etete has attributed the current fuel scarcity in the Lagos metropolis primarily to the activities of unpatriotic and selfish Nigerians. The minister who spoke to energy correspondents in his office today in Lagos paraded a handful of such Nigerians who he personally apprehended after his inspection tour of some petrol filling stations in Lagos yesterday. Chief Etete said that the men arrested hoarded between themselves about 30,000 liters of fuel by refusing to sell to the public. Chief Etete wondered what happened to the 4 million liters of fuel supplied to filling stations in Lagos since last Friday [8 March]. The present problem, the minister said, is not that of supply as the refineries are maintaining a satisfactory level of capacity.

[Begin Etete recording] I am very concerned about the state of affairs of our refineries, and equally the head of state is very concerned and he made a very categorical statement during his budget presentation to the nation that our refineries are old and they all have to be revamped and rehabilitated. I mean, that, by itself, shows the degree of concern government is having. But nevertheless, it is true that our refineries are quite old. All of them are over (?15) years old, but nevertheless it is not true they are not performing. They are performing. [end recording]

On importation of fuel, the minister said this was necessary due to the increase in local demand.

Nigeria: Journalists Urged To Form Independent Monitoring Body

*AB1003191196 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network
in English 0600 GMT 10 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nigerian journalists have been asked to set up an independent monitoring body to observe the forthcoming local government election. The head of state, General Sani Abacha, made the call yesterday in a message to the launching of the 100 million naira endowment fund of the (?International) Institute of Journalism, Abuja.

General Abacha said that such a monitoring body would give credibility to the political program. The head of state stressed the need for journalists to be objective in reporting government programs. Gen. Abacha urged journalists not to maintain an adversary posture on the government but to cooperate to accelerate the pace of development in the country.

He reiterated government's support for the Nigerian Press Council in its efforts to establish an acceptable code of ethics and professional conduct for journalists. The head of state was represented on the occasion by the minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Lieutenant General Jeremiah Useni.

More than 4 million naira was realized at the launching.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone: Election Commission Confirms 15 Mar Election Runoff

*AB1103215596 Freetown SLBS Radio in English
2000 GMT 11 Mar 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Friday, 11 March is presidential election runoff day, according to a release issued today by the Interim National Electoral Commission (INEC). According to the release, INEC is appeal to all eligible voters for a large turnout on polling day.

The release explained that the runoff election has come about because no single presidential candidate reached the required 55 percent in the first election. The two candidates for the runoff election, according to the release, are Alhaji Tejan Kabbah of the SLPP [Sierra Leone People's Party], and Dr. John Karefa-Smart of the UNPP [United National People's Party].

The release states that any voter who has lost his or her registration card should report to the police station in their specified registration area, taking with them

some proof of identity. They will then be allowed to vote provided their name appears in the register at that polling station. Voters should attend polling station where they appeared on the register last time. You will only be allowed to vote in your correct polling station.

All voters should check with their polling station site on the lists displayed locally in schools, churches, and mosques. You will only be allowed to vote in your specified registration area polling station.

Sierra Leone: Presidential Candidate Says Runoff Still Set for 15 Mar

AB0903201696 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 9 Mar 96

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When it became clear that there might have to be a runoff in the Sierra Leone elections, hearts sank. The first round had been traumatic enough, some said, with all the insecurity, chaos, and expense. Let's not do it again. So, there was speculation that the leader, Alhaji Tejan Kabbah of the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) with 36 percent of the vote, and Dr. John Karefa-Smart of the United National People's Party with 22 percent might get together and do a deal to avoid it. There has been a series of meetings and now, a decision has been reached. On the line, Josephine Hazely asked Dr. Karefa-Smart if they were going ahead with the runoff:

[Begin recording] [Karefa-Smart] Yes, the decision now seems to be that we will go to the runoff here on the 15th [March] between Alhaji Tejan Kabbah and myself.

[Hazely] I thought there was a lot of horse trading going on, a lot of negotiations going on in order to avert this. Did that not succeed?

[Karefa-Smart] I wouldn't call it horse trading. There were some very serious discussions and negotiations about what would be in the best interest of the country, but unfortunately after two agonizing days, nothing has come out of those discussions and negotiations and so, we are going on to the runoff.

[Hazely] Why, why didn't the negotiations succeed? Why was it hard to step down and allow Tejan Kabbah probably to be the president?

[Karefa-Smart] [Words indistinct] you ask Mr. Kabbah the same question? Why was it hard for him to step down and allow me to be the president?

[Hazely] But you are the second place runner-up aren't you?

[Karefa-Smart] In....[pauses] You see, we are doing things according to the Constitution. The Constitution does not say anything about a second place runner-up. It simply says the two people with the highest votes should go on to the runoff. If the Constitution had wanted it that way, it should have said the person who has the highest vote wins.

[Hazely] One of the arguments that was being put over to avert a second round is that fears of increased rebel or activities of violence....[pauses] Now, aren't you worried that perhaps more people stand to die if you went again for a second round?

[Karefa-Smart] That weighed....[pauses] I can honestly tell you that that weighed heavily on our mind but again, perhaps through divine providence, we are assured by the military that the security situation has been taken care of.

[Hazely] Are you confident, though, that people still have it in them to go out a second time and vote for the two of you....

[Karefa-Smart, interrupting] I think so, from the messages we get by the dozen. People come and tell us that they are ready to go ahead and vote.

[Hazely] Right, so who have you formed alliances with? I mean, you know, there are what, 14, 13 parties in Sierra Leone, lots of presidential candidates. Who have you formed alliances with, who will convince their voters to support you come the 15th [March].

[Karefa-Smart] The distinctive and unique thing about us is that we have not formed alliances. We have said we were willing to collaborate with anybody who has our vision and people have come as individuals, not as parties. We have not wanted the support of parties because that is....[pauses] At this stage, it is not a competition between parties but individuals from all the parties, including the parties of my opponents, individuals have come and said this time around, we prefer you.

[Hazely] But, you know, surely it's better if people encourage their supporters to give you their support. Surely, that must be better?

[Karefa-Smart] Well, that's exactly what is happening. Let me give you just a short example. When one of the parties openly declared that they were joining the SLPP, which is my contender, hundreds of their people said: You can go, but we are not following you. We are not this time voting for the party, we are voting for a person. [end recording]

**Sierra Leone: Chieftaincy Elections Held;
'Thousands' Turn Out To Vote**

*AB1103130896 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 10 Mar 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chieftaincy elections should have been held in Sierra Leone before last month's presidential and parliamentary polls, but the electoral commission, INEC [Interim National Electoral Commission] proved unable to deliver due to logistical problems. And, it was only this weekend the voters finally got the chance to chose the 12 paramount chiefs who sit in parliament. Now, last time round, the elections in Bo, in the southern province, where four of the chiefs will come from, were marred by violence blamed on suspected rebels or on soldiers trying to stop the vote going ahead. But, this time, as our correspondent Alhassan Sillah reports, things seem to have gone fairly smoothly:

[Begin Sillah recording] When voting got underway here in Bo yesterday morning, thousands of chieftom councillors and other eligible voters had as early as 6 AM formed several long queues patiently awaiting their turn to vote.

The titles for two out of the four districts that make up the southern region were at stake. These were those for Bonthe and Moyamba Districts as the paramount chiefs for the other two districts, Bo and Pujehun, had already been declared unopposed.

At the end of yesterday's voting, which had to be extended by several hours because of the unending queues, a Madam Margaret Sherbure won the Bonthe contest with a comfortable majority while incumbent paramount chief Charles Coker maintained a comfortable lead for the Moyamba throne.

It is not clear whether these results represent the overall tally from other areas of the country where displaced people and others from these two districts, who because of the security situation on the road, could not travel to their respective areas [and] had to cast their votes where they found themselves. However, the returning officer at yesterday's poll, Mr. Soloku Bukari, who is also the provincial secretary, South, told me he was sure the bulk of the chieftom people for both districts had cast their votes.

The institution of paramount chieftaincy has remained an integral part of the system of government in this country. The chiefs have always been recognized by government as a go-between with the people, particularly, in the implementation of government policy at grassroots levels. Over the years, the paramount chief

has grown both in stature and importance. However, critics have not failed to notice in recent years that the timeless limit of chiefs' stay in power has created the situation whereby some have stayed in power for so long that they can hardly recognize their own house-mates. [end recording]

**Sierra Leone: 'International Alert' Official Denies
Influence Over RUF**

*AB1103153196 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 10 Mar 96*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Controversy still surrounds the role of the London-based pressure group, International Alert, in the conflict in Sierra Leone. Set up to work for the resolution of conflict, the organization has been accused by a former spokesman for the RUF [Revolutionary United Front] rebels of bad faith while others believe that International Alert is biased in favor of the rebels, even though it had a hand in setting up last month's first-ever peace talks between the RUF and the NPRC [National Provisional Ruling Council] government. Melius Palayiwa is one of International Alert's consultants, and when he came into our studio, Josephine Hazely asked him how he responded to those accusations:

[Begin recording] [Palayiwa] In Sierra Leone... [pauses] we have been involved with the conflict in Sierra Leone for over a year now, and our role — and I want to emphasize that — our role has been the facilitation of contacts between the RUF and whoever wanted to speak to them.

[Hazely] But, the belief is that you have undue influence over the leadership of the RUF. I mean, people who have been associated with them say so.

[Palayiwa] We are not advisers to the RUF. Our role is simply that of facilitation. When there are two parties to a conflict it is important that those parties be brought together for the peaceful resolution of the conflict, if possible. And, with regards to Sierra Leone, as I have already said, we have been working with the RUF or helping them to facilitate contacts between them. In fact, I do not know who you refer to when you say some allegations have been made by people associated with the RUF personally.

[Hazely] Well, Alimamy Sankoh, for instance, yesterday used to be the PRO [public relations officer] for the RUF — for a time, we used to speak to him on behalf of the RUF — and he made that allegation.

[Palayiwa] Yes, and I would wish to point out that as far back as the 4th of May 1995, Alimamy Sankoh

himself wrote to International Alert asking for assistance in the facilitation of contacts between the RUF and the international community. Further to that, on the 11th of September, the whole council of the RUF wrote to us mandating International Alert to facilitate, and I quote, all contacts that they may be proposed by any international body, organization, or groups of people. [no reference to closing of quotation as heard] This is what we have been doing — merely facilitation. We are impartial, we take no sides, we are not advisers to the RUF, we speak to both sides, we have spoken to the NPRC, we have kept the Sierra Leonean high commissioner in London briefed about our activities, we are not advisers to the RUF, we are simply facilitators. And, you will recall that the very first meetings between the RUF, Sierra Leone, and the international community took place in Abidjan on the weekend of the 2d and 3d of December.

[Hazely] You keep saying you are facilitators, and that you are not advisers, you are not advisers, but are sure you do not have certain people who may be working against your policy — acting as advisers rather than as facilitators? Are you sure?

[Palayiwa] As sure as one can be that the organizational policy... [pauses] And I believe all the people who

work for the organization see the openness of the organization, they carry it out as that of facilitation. We are merely facilitators not advisers. We do not control the RUF. They are an organization with their own ideas. We listen to what they say. If they ask us to facilitate meetings, and as a conflict resolution organization, we do accept their request, and we go out and facilitate those meetings.

[Hazely] If you say you are merely facilitators, why then is there an increasing number of people who are becoming highly suspicious of your role in Sierra Leone or your role with the RUF? How come?

[Palayiwa] Well, I cannot answer for those people. I think it will be best if you put those questions to them, but the stance of the organization is simply that of facilitation.

[Hazely] Doesn't it worry you that people should even consider that you may be unduly influencing the RUF?

[Palayiwa] Obviously, the organization would have to look at why people are saying that, but I can assure everybody, I can assure you that the organization has got nothing to hide. Its position has been simply that of facilitation. [end recording]

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